

52. Orchard Oriole, 1.
53. Common Tern, 200.
54. Black Duck, 2.
55. Carolina Wren, 3.
56. Great Blue Heron, 5.
57. Bald Eagle, 1.
58. English Pheasant, 20.
59. Piping Plover, 5.

NESTING OF THE GRASSHOPPER SPARROW IN SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

BY J. WARREN JACOBS.

The Yellow-winged Sparrow (*Conturniculus savannarum passerinus*) is distributed in limited numbers, during the nesting season, throughout Greene county, in the extreme southwestern corner of Pennsylvania. Their favorite resorts are in the hillside fields and along the low ridges. In pasture fields, not too cleanly kept, and where the wild "sink field" mats its frail vines through the carpet of blue grass, the birds choose a site for a nest. Not every apparently good field has its pair of birds, and indeed one may pass through several such fields without hearing the song of this bird or flushing the female from her nest. However, it must not be inferred from this that birds have not escaped notice, or that a nest has not been passed without the sitting bird taking flight.

The bird itself is very shy; its song pleasing, but not distinguishable a very great distance, being easily drowned by the rattle of numerous ever-singing chats and the medley of a dozen other species which haunt the neglected fields. The female is a close sitter, not leaving her post until almost trampled upon. This makes nest-seeking very tedious; and the apparent scarcity of this species renders uncertain the result of a careful search.

One of the very first nests new to me was of this species, and stumbled upon accidentally on top of the ridge overlooking my home town, away back in the '80s, in about the second year of my bird studies. The old bird fluttered from under my feet and darted down over the hill to a brier clump. It was a new bird to me then, but I got a fairly good look at it; and a year

or two later, when the little first Edition of "Davies' Nest and Eggs" came out, I cleared up the identity, which, by the way, was made easier by the fact that no other sparrow, having similar nests and eggs, was likely to be found here. The eggs, I discovered, after getting home, were badly incubated, and I lost them at the end of the blow-pipe.

Several years went by without this bird or its nest coming under my observation; and when, in 1893, I was preparing a collection of Pennsylvania eggs for exhibition at the Chicago World's Fair, I almost grieved over the loss of this set, but the species was represented by a set of three eggs from New Jersey. A bird apparently so rare, I thought, could be found nesting only by chance, and after several fruitless hunts, I gave up hope of ever replacing the lost set. Thus the matter stood for some years, when a friend brought me a nest and five eggs of a sparrow, unknown to him, which he had found by accidentally stepping against a bunch of grass, flushing the bird. These proved to be eggs of the Yellow-winged. The eggs were fresh, and were found on July 8, 1898, in a pasture field about six miles west of Waynesburg. The composition of the nest was of grass and grass-rootlets, lined with fine grass. Measurements: Outside diameter, 4.5 in.; inside, 2.5 in. Outside depth, 2.0 in.; inside, 1.3 in. It was sunken in the ground and well concealed by the tuft of grass.

Comparing these eggs with two sets taken lately by myself, I find them to be much smaller, and exhibiting a less mottled appearance where the markings are thickest, which is in the form of a broken wreath around the larger end of each. The ground color is pure white, which is the case with the other two sets mentioned, and the predominating color of the markings is burnt sienna, intermixed with fewer blotches of lavender and heliotrope purple. In shape they are broad or rounded ovate, and measure .73x.56, .72x.56, .71x.56, .67x.54, and .69x.56 inch.

The finding of this set of Yellow-winged Sparrow revived my old enthusiasm to find the bird nesting. Therefore, during the next few years, I spent many hours in fruitless search, until June 21, 1903, when, as on my first discovery, I accidentally flushed a bird from her nest sunken in the ground and well concealed by "sink field" vines, in a neglected field

on the side of a hill. I was returning home in the evening, after a day spent in the woods, and in crossing this field I stepped entirely over the nest before the old bird fluttered out and took refuge in a brier clump. The eggs, four in number, were fresh, and are rather heavily marked, the blotches forming a solid wreath around the larger ends of three and a mottled cap on the fourth; the colors being vinaceous-cinnamon, vinaceous, lavender, heliotrope purple, and burnt sienna—the first predominating. Elliptical-ovate in shape, and measure .78x.58, .79x.58, .79x.60, and .78x.57 inch.

The last nest found by me was on July 21, 1903, and like others, was stumbled upon quite accidentally. I was out berry-picking with my nephew and some of his young friends, when one of the party called my attention to a bird he had just flushed at his feet. Seeing it was a Yellow-winged Sparrow, I began a search for its nest, and soon found it quite near to where the boy was standing. It was composed wholly of grass and was placed in a depression five inches deep. It contained four eggs in which embryos were beginning to form. The same description of coloring given for the last will answer for this set, except that the mottled cap is lacking. They are also slightly more pointed than the last. Size: .81x.61, .81x.62, .80x.60, and .78x.61 inch.

Taking the dates into consideration, this bird probably raises but one brood in this part of its range, and its nesting period extends throughout June and July, with care of young sometimes reaching into August.

SOME NOTES ON MICHIGAN WARBLERS.

BY J. CLAIRE WOOD.

There is a certain piece of thick woods here covering about twenty acres of ground. Its exact location is Private Claim 49, Ecore township, Wayne county. The more dense portions are free of undergrowth, but in places the forest floor is concealed by the thickest kind of brush tangle. Elm, red oak, maple, beech, butternut, chestnut and sycamore abound in the order named. A luxuriant growth of wild grape vines is a characteristic feature of the butternut section and near the